

Journal: Week one

Objective

To begin the practice of reflective journaling.

To prepare for your engagement of the learning in this class.

Materials

The primary material you need for this week is your journal! Instructions on what such a journal should consist in, materially, are available via the Journaling Info handout. To recap that handout, your journal can take many forms, but it needs to have at least these elements:

- a table of contexts/index page (the easiest way to do this is to leave a few blank pages at the beginning of your journal, and construct this element as you're finishing the particular journal book)
- room for two columns (a narrower column on the left for "meta" reflection, and a wider column on the right for your primary writing)
- multiple sections (a section in which you do the assignments for this class, a section that is available for random musings, and a section devoted to your teaching congregation)
- portability, so that you can use it easily not only in our class, but also in the rest of your classes and your teaching congregation site

Procedures

1. Take 10 minutes to do a free write on the following topic: what is "religious education"? For this free write do not consult anything other than your own memories and experiences, and make sure that you write for the entire 10 minutes (even if that means repeating a thought, or writing "blah, blah, blah" on the page).
2. On another page of your journal, write up a brief description of your teaching congregation site. If you do yet have a teaching congregation site, describe a congregation (perhaps your home congregation, perhaps a place where you are currently worshiping) that you will use as a base for your reflection in this class. Make sure that you describe — you could draw this, or paste in a photograph — the neighborhood where the congregation is located, something of its demographics, and its mission statement.